

## The Toiler

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## Another Straw Man Down.

Socialists are familiar with certain objections made to Socialism to the effect that if the ownership and control of industry were taken out of present capitalist hands and placed under control of the workers, they would immediately settle into a state of inefficiency, laziness and general sloth. The assumption being that unless a man is exploited of a great part of his products he will cease to feel an incentive to work.

Socialists are no longer constrained to reply to such objections except to cite the case of Russia.

Russian workers, after routing the counter revolutionaries under Denikin and Kolchak, in the first weeks of the reorganization of Russia's life and industry established the eight hour day as the basic workday. But so great was Russia's need in the beginning of her reconstruction period that the workers are volunteering to work twelve hours without extra pay. The Allied blockade of Russia is still on. Trade with the outside world is prohibited by the shortsighted politicians who rule by the right of capital in America and Europe. In order to fill their needs under these circumstances the Socialist workers are willing to do what they would never have consented to under the regime of the Czar. They are lending their wills and their strength for the rebuilding of their industries.

While American railroad workers are waging a fight against their exploiters for a little higher wage, the Russian railroaders are volunteering four extra hours work a day for the sake of putting the railways in the best of condition. Workers in the railway material production plants are establishing new records each month in the amount of products turned out. So in other industries. All workers are shouldering the responsibility of work for they realize that only increased production can avert the destruction which the Allied governments are attempting to bring down upon them by the most damnable blockade of history.

Russia is answering the objections to Socialism in object lessons that are irrefutable.

## Some Emigration Facts.

We have so much Democracy in America that the inhabitants are getting away from it as fast as possible. At least the emigration statistics seem to indicate they are. For the five months ending last November, 125,000 persons left the country while only 19,000 entered here. While figures for the months since then are incomplete there are no indications of a let up in the rate of emigration over immigration. It is claimed that a million and a quarter people are preparing to emigrate from these democratic shores at the earliest possible moment. Steamship lines have their passenger lists filled for months in advance.

Another interesting fact about this situation is that the percentage of women over men arriving here and the reverse in regard to those leaving is very large. The authorities claim that nearly three women to one man are arriving. The European countries are encouraging the emigration of women while man power is retained by stringent emigration laws. Europe's economic condition is such that any but actual producers are regarded as so much excess baggage. While the percentage of men leaving America over women is not so great it is very large. If the present rates continue we shall soon have a preponderance of women over men with a dwindling population to boot.

Probably the greatest exodus which has ever occurred in this country will take place within the first year after trade is resumed with Russia. Not of Russians alone, thousands feel drawn toward Russia and would gladly assist her in the rebuilding of her industry under Socialism. Russia presents the spectacle of a vast social experiment. Every revolutionist feels the lure of her. She stands to become the Mecca of world travellers in the immediate future, as well as that of oppressed peoples everywhere.

In the meantime the rays from the Statue of Liberty reach OUTWARD!

## Rents and Capital.

I am a clerk in the office of the — and I find myself in a hard row of stumps sometimes for lack of information. The other day an argument came up as to the justice of RENTS. I took the stand against them for the reason that the income was not "earned" by the recipient. Of COURSE everyone in the office called me Bolshevik and — everything. Now, will you let me know how the Communists stand on the Rent Problem.

Another Argument: If Capital is abolished (if you really mean to abolish Capital itself along with the Capitalists) where will the initiative come from to shove industry out along new lines and developments? I am in a quandary in this respect. Would the people have to wait on a slow government before they could have improvements or would you allow a mild form of Capitalism by permitting a limited dividend, say 5 or 6 per cent?

A White Collar Rebel.

### ARE RENTS JUST?

Socialist economists agree that the capitalist system is based upon three forms of exploitation, rent, interest and profit. Abolish these three and the capitalist system collapses.

Justice is a relative term depending for its definition upon the viewpoint of the individual; this viewpoint being colored by his economic interests. The justness of rents therefore rests upon the answer to the question — do they or do they not serve the interests of the particular person or class in question? The capitalist reaps a financial reward (unearned) from rents. To him rents are just and sanctioned by God and law. The renter (exploited) sees

# EDITORIAL & PARTY NEWS PAGE

## Proletarian Science History

An economic interpretation of history especially arranged for use as a text-book for study classes, or for home study.  
— By W. E. REYNOLDS. —  
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### OUTLINE FOR UPPER SAVAGERY.

Beginning ..... Invention of the bow and arrow.  
Tools and Weapons ..... Bow and arrow, improved spears, stone and fire-burnt tips, cutting tools of hard and polished stone.  
Transportation ..... Natural locomotion, dugout canoes—later, bark and skin canoes.  
Subsistence ..... Cooked flesh, including the larger animals and fowls. Cooked foods, fish, dried meats. Mixed diet.  
Shelter ..... Caves, skin tents, huts of various kinds.  
Clothing ..... More general use of skins. Beginning of ornamental clothing of woven fabric.  
Environment ..... Migration to cooler climates, along shores of streams.  
Organization ..... Gens developed and perfected. Punaluan family. No religious organization. First appearance of the medicine man.  
Arts and Institutions ..... Primitive picture writing, weaving and pottery-making.  
Duration ..... Shorter than middle savagery.

### CHAPTER SIX.

#### Upper Savagery.

The third age of human history is known as the age of upper savagery and dates from the invention of the bow and arrow.

We have no definite record of the invention of the bow and arrow, neither do we know what were the special circumstances that made its invention necessary. The general circumstances are evident. The natural operation of the law of fecundity, increasing the population to numbers in excess of the available food supply, compelled mankind to invent weapons with which to kill larger game. As larger game was more elusive and often more dangerous to the life of man, a weapon was necessary with which man could strike at a distance. The bow and arrow was the result of this necessity.

Tyler\*) maintains that the throwing of the spear suggested the bow and arrow. Anyone who has followed an amateur woodsman over a trail heavily overhung with branches, has probably had first hand information of the power which these branches manifest when strongly bent in one direction and then suddenly released. It may be that such an experience first suggested the idea of the bow. The arrow was simply a spear adapted in size to the capacity of the bow.

Fire-burnt tips for arrows and spears grew out of the utility of fire. Experience demonstrated that charred wood had greater resistance than other wood and hence was used for cutting and stabbing purposes. Hard stone was used for a similar reason.

It was in this age of human history that the dug-out canoe evolved from a fire-burnt log, to be followed later by an artificial log made of bark. In some localities during the latter part of upper savagery skins began to be used for canoe-making.

Land transportation was still natural locomotion only, with woman as the beast of burden.

The use of the bow and arrow added to man's diet

his products pass from his hands to the capitalist landlord — to him rents mean exploitation and robbery.

Accepting as a definition of justness of rents that they must be actually produced by the possessor to be justly possessed, which is in line with the viewpoint of class conscious workers, we must inquire into the nature of rents and learn just what they are.

Land is not the product of human labor but a common heritage of mankind. All original titles to land rest upon conquest and theft. Rent is not "earned" by the landlord but by him who tills the soil. Rent is a form of exploitation. The owner owns and rents to another for the purpose of reaping a financial reward thru this form of exploitation. The renter is the victim of legalized theft. Simply by the process of legal ownership, landlords are able to exact a toll from their less fortunate fellows for the use of mankind's common heritage. Rents are imposed upon production based upon privilege.

Workingmen usually attempt to arrive at the justness of a social problem by looking at it from the viewpoint of the profit taking class. This is apparent in their acquiescence in the wages system which has been made legal with their consent. If they were class conscious they would view all social question in the same way that the capitalists do—from the viewpoint of their own economic interests.

### WILL COMMUNISM ABOLISH CAPITAL?

What is capital? Capital is that portion of wealth which the race has accumulated over and above its needs thruout the ages which is used in the production of more wealth. To mention a few of its forms. Cleared and developed lands, farms, cities, developed mines, improved harbors and rivers, all the machinery of production and distribution. These are capital, necessary means of producing the necessities of the race in either the Socialist or Capitalist society.

Communists have no intention of abolishing capital. We could not if we would, the law of self preservation would intervene to prevent it.

As to where would arise the initiative to pursue a course that would increase the happiness and welfare of the race thru increased productivity. The initiative would be far greater under Communism than under Capitalism. For whereas now industrial development must await the guarantee of a profit to the capitalist promoters, under Communism the benefit being a direct one to the workers, they would have the greater incentive to develop industry. Communism has answered this question in Russia today. Faced with a demoralization of industry unparalleled in history the Communist workers of Russia are voluntarily giving their best for reconstruction. Knowing that all that is produced belongs to the producers, they find all necessary incentive to profound achievements unequalled in capitalist controlled nations.

Communism completely inaugurated does away with even the smallest amount of exploitation and capitalist profits. During the period of transition Communist governments may under certain conditions be forced in the interest of reconstruction to render profits to capitalist concerns, but only as transitory measures.

Communism, once established completely wipes out the last vestige of all slave and class societies. Communism will abolish the capitalist but not capital.

the flesh of larger animals and fowls. Animals which hitherto had been too swift or too dangerous for him to attack, now became his easy prey.

The use of the bow and arrow was also a large factor in establishing primitive democracy as the man equipped with a bow and arrow was more than a match for the strong-arm bully armed with only a spear or a club\*\*).

The ability to kill larger game compelled mankind to solve two other problems, the problem of the preservation of the meat and also the preservation of the hide. Here is the cradle of economics, as economics is the science of management. Both of these problems were solved in a primitive way by the same method—by drying. As drying was difficult in a wet climate artificial heat was resorted to, which gave origin to smoke cured meats. Here as in all departments of economics necessity was ever the mother of invention.

Hunting and fighting were the chief occupation of upper savagery, and for a game seeking population, tanned skins greatly simplified the problem of shelter. The tent is ever the shelter of the nomad.\*\*\*)

Tanned skins made possible a sort of primitive camouflage which enabled the savage to approach within killing range of game. Wild grasses were also worn as a camouflage while stalking game. This led to the idea of ornamentation which evolved the idea of dress. The use of wild grass while stalking game, logically led to the art of weaving, braided or woven grass being more easily carried or worn than loose wisps of hay.\*\*\*\*)

With the protection against the elements afforded by fire, and tanned skins life in colder climates was made endurable. The course of migration generally followed the streams and game and fruit bearing forests. It was the bow and arrow that emancipated man from forest life and gave him the freedom of the plains. This gave man a wider range, a wider vision, and correspondingly multiplied his problems.

The first step in domestic organization was the Consanguine Family which means a family based upon ties of blood relationship. It is the lower form of group marriage, having as its chief characteristics female supremacy and descent.

The next step towards the formation of the family appears in the higher form of group marriage known as the Punaluan Family. This form of group marriage was so organized as to bar cohabitation of the first of kin. Female supremacy and descent still customary.

It was during this age of history that the priest made his first appearance in the form of the tribal "medicine-man".

The desire on the part of the primitive for an explanation of phenomena gave rise to an opportunity for the medicine man to substitute his imagination for the lack of knowledge on the part of his fellows. The medicine-man quickly discovered that by using his imagination he need not use his muscle and yet have first fruits of the season and the fattest of the flock.

The foremost arts of this age were crude picture writing and weaving of crude baskets and clothing. The imitative faculty of man early evolved a crude art in picture writing.

The duration of upper savagery was much shorter than the middle age of savagery and ended with the invention of the art of pottery-making which is a further development of the art of basket-weaving.

### SUMMARY.

The primitive epoch of human history is divided into three grand divisions, the lower, middle and upper ages of savagery.

Lower savagery dates from unknown antiquity.

Middle savagery dates from the discovery of the utility of fire.

Upper savagery dates from the invention of the bow and arrow and ends with the invention of the art of pottery making.

### QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER SIX.

#### Upper Savagery.

1. What great invention marked the beginning of upper savagery?
2. Name the economic causes making this invention imperative.
3. Why were spear and arrow tips fire-charred?
4. Name the methods of locomotion of this age.
5. Name some of the animals which the bow made available as food.
6. How did the bow and arrow affect primitive democracy?
7. What is meant by the term "economics"?
8. Name two great economic problems resulting from invention of bow and arrow.
9. Name the uses of tanned skins in upper savagery.
10. What was the probable cause of the discovery of the art of weaving?
11. Name the factors which made the habitation of colder climates possible.
12. What was the first step in domestic organization?
13. Define the term Consanguine. Punaluan.
14. Explain the difference between the two forms of group marriage.
15. Who was the fore-runner of the priest?
16. Was the "medicine-man" a product of necessity?
17. Explain the origin of picture writing.
18. What is meant by female supremacy and descent?
19. Name the foremost arts of this age of history.
20. What invention marked the close of savagery?

\*) The student is referred to pages 192-6 of Edward B. Tyler's Anthropology.

\*\*) The framers of the American Constitution were cognizant of this fact. "The right of the people to bear arms shall not be denied." U. S. Constitution.

\*\*\*) The tent has ever been the shelter of the nomad thruout the ages, but in the age of modern industry a new form of nomad arises, the army of the unemployed, and these in their nomadic wanderings usually seek the shelter of the modern box-car.

\*\*\*\*) The names of many of the American Indians are said to have had their origin in the kind of skins they wore while stalking game. Such names as Sitting Bull, Standing Bear, Lone Wolf, Spotted Elk are samples.

The idea of ornamental dress may have had its origin in the boastful egotism of the savage, strutting before his fellows in his successful camouflage after the kill.

(Continued next week.)